

S E C R E T

Approved For Release 2002/08/21 : CIA-RDP81B00401R000300020016-3

15 February 1980

18

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence ^{15 MAR 1980}
FROM : PB/NSC Coordination Staff
SUBJECT : Background Material for NFIB Discussion of the Soviet Brigade (U)

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1. At the end of the NFIB meeting scheduled for ~~20 February~~ ^{13 MARCH}, you will be discussing the paper prepared by NFAC in response to your questions about the state of the Community's analytical efforts on the brigade. The folder contains the material you wanted returned as background for that discussion (left side). I've also followed up on the two questions you posed for the DDO on their efforts since September to develop additional human source reporting on the brigade (right side). (S)

2. Tish and I have also been very concerned about the numbers that NFAC has been using in connection with Soviets in Cuba. So we asked for NFAC's current breakdown (civilian and military) and this is also provided (following the DDO material). As the width of the ranges suggests, these numbers (with the exception of the brigade) are very soft. We think a priority effort should be made either to improve our confidence in these numbers or to make clear (via the PDB) that the best we can do is estimate ranges, that it is unlikely we will be able to come up with hard numbers over the next 6-8 months, that we expect HUMINT reporting to continue to point in the direction of the higher end of the range of our estimates, and that we could be off by anywhere from 25-50%. (S)

11



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Attachment

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ORIGINAL CL BY 064696
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